



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting, City Hall  
November 7, 2013 6:30pm

Kingston CAC MINUTES

Attendance: Julie Noble, Chairperson, Members: Diane Bonavita, Kevin, McEvoy, Casey Schwarz, Gregg Swanzey; Guests: Jennifer Schwartz Berky (Urban Agriculture Committee), Nancy Cozean (Winwater), Jeff Le Java (Land Use Law Center-Kingston Urban Agriculture Committee), Rebecca Martin (Urban Agriculture Committee), Tom O'Dowd

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by the Chairperson.

Public Comment: Jennifer Schwartz Berky: would like the city to include the efforts of the various groups that submitted reports to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee on July 15 including the Urban Agriculture Committee, the Climate Smart Task Force and the Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force in the comprehensive plan and related zoning process.

Special Presentations:

1. Urban Agriculture: Schwartz Berky led a discussion on Urban Agriculture and provided a written update on the Committee efforts to incorporate zoning recommendations concerning Urban Agriculture into the zoning revisions to implement the comprehensive planning process. Detailed discussion followed as shown herein did not result in any motions made or resolutions presented.

a. Question & Answer after Presentation: After reading the Urban Agriculture update document several CAC members had questions and comments particularly concerning how the gardens were proposed to be categorized. Casey asked for clarification on vertical farms and what category they would fit in on type of gardens to which Jennifer replied that they may go in several categories such as roof gardens or roof level farms; Gregg followed up on roof gardens describing a gutter system which recycles storm water to roof gardens via a pump system; Julie questioned which category school gardens would fall under, to which Jennifer replied that they would go in the category with youth gardens;

b. Pace Conference: Jeff LeJava discussed the Land Use and Sustainable Law Conference on December 6 one session of which will be on urban agriculture which will include Boston, Kingston, Newburgh Community Land bank as examples and a presentation by Jennifer and him.

c. Jennifer asked CAC to consider questions regarding Urban Agriculture as follows:

i. Needs in Kingston regarding Urban Agriculture: Julie discussed code enforcement and zoning issues which Jennifer referenced as necessary to building institutional support while Jeff discussed education aspects of urban agriculture;

ii. Opportunities and challenges in Kingston regarding Urban Agriculture - Emilie discussed deer and other wildlife eating her garden: Gregg discussed site management, and site controls including location management responsibilities at different sites; Julie discussed school garden sustainability; Jeff discussed advantages of easements in perpetuity in comparison to fee simple ownership and leaseholds which provided no guarantee for perpetuity regarding site control, with a Jersey City NJ cited example describing gardens and urban farm plots on 2 year interim leases; Jeff emphasized the necessity for a legal framework for community gardens and for

urban agriculture;

iii. CAC Role in Urban Agriculture - Emilie discussed how the CAC can identify open space, Gregg discussed a possible Kingston Land Trust role in land holding and site management; A discussion regarding the present CAC mapping initiative for the Kingston Natural Resource Inventory brought to light that the much of the same mapping database and GIS files from Ulster County Information Services is being used for the urban agriculture project and that the Natural resource and open space inventory overlaps with the Urban Agriculture project with a key difference that Jennifer is limiting her site analysis to suitability for urban agriculture noting however that her urban agriculture analysis can be included in NRI and is expected to Identify vacant sites, city owned vacant sites, contaminated sites, noting size of sites; CAC can advocate for urban agriculture such as providing documents to Planning Dept., Planning Board, or submitting same to Common Council.

iv. Kingston Comprehensive Plan: Rebecca Martin discussed the importance and necessity of including the concepts of the urban agriculture zoning initiative into comprehensive plan and implementing this through subsequent zoning changes; Julie discussed the recent Comp Plan Visioning document dated October 9 available at City website with it noted by several of those present that it was not clear how from the visioning document, the committee presentations from July 15 Comp Plan meeting will be integrated into the comp plan; Emilie noted that Visioning document did not include reports as stated; Gregg indicated that he provided Suzanne Cahill with reports and mapping including the Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force and other documents; Jennifer mentioned that the Urban Agriculture Report will be mostly wrapped up by the Dec 6 Pace Conference and can be forwarded at or shortly after that time; Gregg suggested that proposals be submitted to Planning Dept. directly and to CAC. A brief discussion regarding a paid coordinator to be a liaison for CAC to handle this and other functions, similar to the proposed position for climate action, did not result in any motions made or resolutions presented;

2. LED Lighting Presentation by Nancy Cozean representing Winwater from Carmel, NY.  
This presentation resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented;

a. Introduction: Ms. Cozean began by following up the preceding urban agriculture presentation with a brief discussion concerning Poughkeepsie area efforts such as College Hill Park and its rock garden and her efforts to revitalize and restore the garden established in 1931 by Clarence Lown, one of the preeminent rock gardeners in North America and later mentioned the Vassar 1000 Tree Plantings at the Vassar Farm and Ecological Preserve to reforest a 5-acre section of the 530-acre site.

Ms. Cozean began the LED Lighting Presentation describing her experience as Mayor of Poughkeepsie at the time the Walkway Over the Hudson was being established and how this project introduced her to LED; She further described the company she represents Winwater from Carmel and its activity in the LED Lighting market.

b. Advantages of LED Lighting: Ms. Cozean mentioned that LED lighting has been around 86 years with important design features including long life, replacement for fluorescent (CFL) which has hazardous material issues with mercury and other toxic substances, Nova Star LED Retrofit kits for linear fluorescent lights which can replace T12 and T8 systems and that total harmonic distortion (THD) is not an issue as with fluorescents which may possibly be associated with seasonal affected disorder and migraines while retrofitting should not void or affect UL listings. Ms. Cozean continued describing the features and advantages of LED lighting including a Fluorescent & Incandescent comparison indicating that LED lights have a long life up to 70K hours with resulting savings on power costs. Longer life system reduces maintenance and labor costs to change bulbs, ballasts, and fixtures and stated that LED lights can be shatterproof.

c. Disadvantages of LED: Ms. Cozean's reviewed problems with drivers overheating can be with some makes of LED and that many parts and systems are made abroad using China and Italy as source countries while mentioning that US domestic suppliers are entering the market including GE.

d. Uses: Besides fluorescent and incandescent interior lighting replacement LED lighting can be used for Exterior High pressure sodium lamps which give circles of light and direct the light citing as an example the Walkway Over the Hudson where LED lights do not reflect on the water below. Another frequent use of LED lights is for exit signs.

e. Questions: Kevin asked a question concerning cost to which Nancy replied that initial costs to replace or retrofit are higher than fluorescent and incandescent but that savings on longer life of product and maintenance would be expected to offset this. Casey commented on retrofitting difficulties of fluorescents citing Dept of Energy info.

## Old Business

1. Minutes: Upon motion duly made by the Chairperson, the minutes to the 9-26-13 meeting were approved unanimously. The August 2013 minutes were tabled due to lack of document. The Chairperson announced that Karen Corey who had been taking minutes has resigned while Kevin is taking minutes for the present.

2. Pesticides: Kevin revised a County Pesticide document for discussion concerning possible City use; Gregg suggested reducing scope of document to address issues between county and city jurisdiction; It was noted that County law applies to county property even if located in the City and that exterminators are not covered. Emilie discussed Right to Know workbooks showing material safety data sheets, OSHA requirements in the workplace and Ulster County neighbor notification provisions. Gregg stated that City policy for pesticides could be by Executive order, which could provide authorization for policy and or legislation for any citywide initiative. Next steps could include an Assessment of what already exists such as DPW & Parks have data sheets and possibly executive orders, identifying issues such as City and County property concerns, Right to Know, public health and water quality and possible responsibilities and requirements for contractors using pesticides on non city land and lastly determining scope of any draft policy. Next steps will be referred to the Climate Action Committee for further review. No motions made and no resolutions presented.

3. AVR Hudson Landing and Promenade: Gregg mentioned that the overall project developer's agreement is in progress and promenade being tabled by Planning Board and Heritage Area Committee until the agreement is finalized. Gregg, who also serves as City Director of the Office of Economic Development & Strategic Partnerships & Kevin, who is also a Heritage Area Commissioner, discussed scope of Heritage Area with regards to Hudson Landing and LWRP. Best area management practices were discussed regarding stormwater, flooding and erosion; Action items to include a CAC joint site visit with HAC and Emilie to begin to draft a response to the Hudson Landing site plan review.

4. Natural Resource Inventory: Emilie gave an update on the NRI including scenic, cultural, historic resources, constrained lands, floodplains and steep slopes and urban agriculture locations and on her discussion with Suzanne Cahill about open space as being a crucial component with regards to the planning process in Kingston. In this regard, Emilie will give Sue some NRI map documents. Even though CAC is still waiting on Laura Heady, Gretchen Stevens has forwarded documents to drop box, Emilie will draft a narrative on natural resources and open space with some mapping to Sue Cahill as an action item.

5. Kingston Tidal Waterfront Task Force report was approved by Common Council committee and will go to full council for a vote 11-12-13, Gregg, Julie and Emilie are involved in the process. Emile discussed 12-4-13 updates to the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program with Bill Nechamen from the NYS DEC Floodplain Management Section.

6. UC Environmental Management Council: Meeting is the usually last Wednesday of each month and the CAC representative position is still vacant.

## New Business

1. Habitat Assessment Guidelines: Gretchen Stevens from Hudsonia to come to future meeting for a Habitat Assessment Guideline review and discussion for CAC to consider adopting Habitat Assessment Guidelines for Kingston. Kevin gave a brief recap of the Hudsonia Habitat Assessment Guideline Workshop on November 4 which Laura Heady helped lead with Gretchen Stevens and indicated he would attend the November 16 one day Hudsonia Biodiversity Workshop at Glynwood Center and provided information on other one day Hudsonia Biodiversity Workshops for the other CAC members.

2. Forsyth Nature Center: Casey discussed Go Green; Green Friday at Forsythe Nature Center the same day as Pace Dec 6.

Motion to adjourn meeting approved unanimously at 9:55 PM.